

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

MAIL PROCESSING NETWORK RATIONALIZATION
SERVICE CHANGES, 2011

Docket No. N2012-1

**INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION INTERROGATORIES
REDIRECTED FROM WITNESS LaCHANCE
(APWU/USPS-T13-1 THROUGH 4)**

The United States Postal Service hereby files responses to the above-listed interrogatories of American Postal Workers Union dated January 27, 2012. The interrogatories have been redirected from witness Susan LaChance to the Postal Service for institutional responses. Each interrogatory is stated verbatim and followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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**RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION INTERROGATORY
REDIRECTED FROM WITNESS LaCHANCE**

APWU/USPS-T13-1 The Postal Service has indicated that towns that lose their mail processing facility as a result of an AMP will still be able to have their mail cancelled with the local postmark. While this appears true immediately after a facility has closed, the postmarks do not always remain available.

- a) What is the Postal Service's current policy regarding local postmarks when the mail is no longer locally cancelled?
- b) What is the Postal Service's plan for areas that lose mail processing facilities as a result of Network Rationalization?

RESPONSE

The second sentence of the preface contains an assertion for which no basis is provided and for which the absence of a response should not be interpreted as an affirmation.

- (a) See Postal Operations Manual section 312. Some mail will be cancelled at Post Offices, stations or branches in the future network on the same terms as today under POM section 312. Accordingly, it is not accurate to say that "mail is no longer locally cancelled" in the future network.
- (b) It is not clear from the question what information is being sought. In any event, see Postal Operations Manual section 312.

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APWU/USPS-T13-2 How does a postal customer get their mail locally cancelled if the cancellation equipment no longer exists in the area as the result of an AMP?

RESPONSE

See Postal Operations Manual 312, which is reproduced below.

312 Local Postmark

312.1 Local Postmark Requirement

The local postmark must be made available in every community with a Post Office. While no exceptions are made to this policy, customers may need to contact postal officials in advance as provided in 312.2.

312.2 Local Postmark Requests

Customers may request a local postmark at the retail counter of any Post Office, classified station, or branch. Customers who want significant mail volumes (50 or more pieces) postmarked should contact the postmaster or other manager in advance to ensure that adequate resources are available to provide a local postmark.

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APWU/USPS-T13-3 How much does it cost per piece to get a local postmark after a mail processing facility has been closed on:

- a) One mail piece?
- b) 100 mail pieces?
- c) 1,000 mail pieces?
- d) 100,000 mail pieces?
- e) 1,000,000 mail pieces?
- f) over 1,000,000 mail pieces?

RESPONSE

Please review Postal Operations Manual section 312. The Postal Service does not track volumes or costs associated with requests for the provision of local postmarks under POM section 312. The presentation by a mailer of more than 100 pieces for a local postmark hand cancellation in any given instance is a relatively rare occurrence.

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APWU/USPS-T13-4 For locations where the BMEUs are left open after the processing facility has been closed, please confirm that mailers are still permitted to drop their mail at these BMEUs.

- a) In this situation, will the mailer still receive the same discount it received before the facility closure?
- b) If not, what must a mailer do to maintain its discount?

RESPONSE

- (a) As the network is transitioned, mailers will be permitted to drop their mail at BMEUs that remain in an impacted facility. In this situation, mailers will continue to receive the same discounts. Future pricing decisions will be made subsequent to finalization of network changes.
- (b) N/A.